

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disassembling method for disassembling a washing machine, the washing machine including:

a vessel formed of resin and including a water tub;

a driven unit including a dehydration tub and making a rotational movement in said vessel; and

a drive unit including at least one of a motor and a reduction-gear unit, said drive unit being connected through a coupling rod to said driven unit and disposed on the outside of said vessel, and

the method comprising a release step of applying force, along the axial direction of said coupling rod, in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other to release the connection between said drive unit and said driven unit, wherein

said release step is carried out in a state where said coupling rod and said driven unit are secured, and

in said release step, the force is applied in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other while a bottom of said vessel is pressed in a direction away from said drive unit, and said bottom of said vessel is pressed at a position opposite to a bottom of said driven unit.

Claim 2 (original): The disassembling method for the washing machine according to claim 1, wherein

in said release step, said drive unit is held, pressed or caught and said driven unit is held, pressed or caught to separate said drive unit and said driven unit away from each other.

Claim 3 (original): The disassembling method for the washing machine according to claim 1, wherein

in said release step, said drive unit is held, pressed or caught and said vessel is held, pressed or caught to separate said drive unit and said vessel away from each other.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The disassembling method for the washing machine according to claim 3, wherein

said release step includes the step of bringing said driven unit into contact with the inside of said vessel, and

in said release step, a portion of said vessel with which said driven unit is brought into contact is pressed in the direction opposite to the direction of movement of said driven unit.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The disassembling method for the washing machine according to claim 1, wherein

said release step includes the step of breaking a dehydration-tub flange coupling said coupling rod and said dehydration tub to each other.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A disassembling apparatus for disassembling a washing machine, the washing machine including:

a vessel formed of resin;

a driven unit making a rotational movement in said vessel; and

a drive unit connected through a coupling rod to said driven unit and disposed on the outside of said vessel,

the apparatus comprising separating means for applying force, along the axial direction of said coupling rod, in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other, and

said separating means including means for stopping one of said vessel or said driven unit and said drive unit and for separating the other from the one, wherein

said separating means applies the force in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other while a bottom of said vessel is pressed in a direction away from said drive unit, and said bottom of said vessel is pressed at a position opposite to a bottom of said driven unit.

Claim 10 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, wherein

said separating means includes:
drive-unit holding means for holding said drive unit;
driven-unit holding means for holding said driven unit; and
first moving means for moving, along said axial direction, at least one of said drive-unit holding means and said driven-unit holding means.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, wherein

said separating means includes:
drive-unit grasping means for catching said drive unit;
driven-unit holding means for holding said driven unit; and
second moving means for moving, along said axial direction, at least one of said drive-unit grasping means and said driven-unit holding means.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 12, wherein

said drive-unit grasping means includes an open/close hook formed to freely open and close, and said open/close hook has a leading end for catching said drive unit.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 14, wherein

said drive-unit grasping means includes a hook drive unit for pressing said open/close hook in the direction of closing said open/close hook, and

said hook drive unit is formed to contact said open/close hook without being connected and secured to said open/close hook.

Claim 17 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, wherein

said separating means includes:

drive-unit holding means for holding said drive unit;

vessel holding means for holding said vessel; and

third moving means for moving, along said axial direction, at least one of said drive-unit holding means and said vessel holding means.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, wherein

said separating means includes:

drive-unit grasping means for catching said drive unit;

vessel pressing means for pressing said vessel; and

fourth moving means for moving, along said axial direction, at least one of said drive-unit grasping means and said vessel pressing means.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 19, wherein

said drive-unit grasping means includes an open/close hook formed to freely open and close, and said open/close hook has a leading end for catching said drive unit.

Claim 22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 21, wherein

said drive-unit grasping means includes a hook drive unit for pressing said open/close hook in the direction of closing said open/close hook, and

said hook drive unit is formed to contact said open/close hook without being connected and secured to said open/close hook.

Claim 24 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 19, wherein

said vessel pressing means is formed to press said vessel toward one of the sides in said axial direction, and

said drive-unit grasping means is formed to move toward the other side.

Claim 25 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 24, wherein

said vessel pressing means includes a press rod formed to press a bottom portion of said vessel to be disposed.

Claims 26-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, said apparatus comprising a table for disposing an object to be disassembled, wherein

said table is formed to have a movable mount surface.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (original): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 9, said apparatus comprising a shatterproof plate formed to surround said separating means.

Claims 31-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): A disassembling apparatus for disassembling a washing machine,

the washing machine including:

a vessel formed of resin;

a driven unit making a rotational movement in said vessel; and

a drive unit connected through a coupling rod to said driven unit and disposed on the outside of said vessel,

the apparatus comprising separating means for applying force, along the axial direction of said coupling rod, in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other, wherein

said separating means applies the force in the direction of separating said drive unit and said driven unit from each other while a bottom of said vessel is pressed in a direction away from said drive unit, and said bottom of said vessel is pressed at a position opposite to a bottom of said driven unit, and

said separating means is formed to apply said force of at most 940 kg.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 33, said apparatus comprising a table for mounting thereon an object to be disassembled, wherein

said table is formed to have a movable mount surface.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The disassembling apparatus for the washing machine according to claim 33, said apparatus comprising a shatterproof plate formed to surround said separating means.

Claims 36-37 (canceled)